

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 070429
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070429

EXDIS:FOR CHARGE FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR DELAY OF VOTE IN SECURITY

1. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS TODAY WITH DINITZ AND BAR-ON RELATED TO THEIR REQUEST THAT A VOTE ON A RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BE DELAYED UNTIL MONDAY TO GIVE TIME FOR DAYAN TO CONVEY ISRAELI VIEWS AND PROPOSALS TO US SUNDAY EVENING. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THERE IS A REAL RISK, IF A VOTE IS POSTPONED THAT LONG, THE PRESENT CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF OUR RESOLUTION WILL BEGIN TO UNRAVEL AND PRESSURES WILL GROW FOR A RESOLUTION LIMITED TO A CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. WE HAVE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THIS RISK WILL INCREASE AS IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 070429

THERE ARE REPORTS OF ISRAELI TANK COLUMNS MOVING TOWARD TYRE. WE HAVE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE LEBANESE FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT HAVING A VOTE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, TODAY IF POSSIBLE. FINALLY, WE HAVE GIVEN ISRAELIS HERE OUR JUDGMENT THAT VOTE IS MORE LIKELY TO COME SUNDAY THAN TODAY WHILE SOME DELEGATIONS EXERCISE THE PRIVILEGE OF ASKING FOR 24-HOUR DELAY TO SEEK IN-

STRUCTIONS.

2. BOTH DINITZ AND BAR-ON HAVE REGISTERED ACUTE UNHAPPINESS, MAKING IT CLEAR THEY DO NOT ACCEPT OUR

JUDGMENT OF THE RISKS IF VOTE WERE DELAYED AND THAT THEY FEEL WE ARE INTENT ON "RAILROADING" A RESOLUTION THROUGH WITHOUT GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO MAKE THEIR INPUT. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT DAYAN WILL COME TO WASHINGTON SUNDAY EVENING IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. I HAVE ARGUED THAT OUR CONCERNS ABOUT DELAY ARE VALID AND THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF ANY RESOLUTION EMERGING EVEN AFTER TALKS WITH DAYAN THAT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM OR BETTER THAN OUR PRESENT DRAFT. I HAVE MADE THE POINT THAT WE ASSUME ISRAELI CONCERNS RELATE TO THE KIND OF MANDATE A UN FORCE WILL HAVE AND THE KIND OF SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL BE MADE ON THE GROUND TO ASSURE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN SOUTH LEBANON FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH ARE NOT IN ANY CASE SPELLED OUT IN THE RESOLUTION AND WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT AFTER IT IS PASSED. ISRAEL CLEARLY HAS LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN HOW THESE MATTERS ARE WORKED OUT AND IT WILL THEREFORE STILL BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE ISRAELI INPUT EVEN AFTER A RESOLUTION IS PASSED. DECISION ON WHETHER DAYAN COMES ANYWAY SUNDAY EVENING IS OF COURSE UP TO ISRAELIS BUT HE IS WELCOME

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 070429

SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED.

3. YOU WILL RECEIVE BY SEPTTEL TEXT OF RESOLUTION WE TABLED TODAY.

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Message Attributes

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